

Final Preparations being made for KAF's new Concession Mall

Story and photos by

Spc. Zia Ul Haq

211th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

Kandahar, Afghanistan — The life style of the American soldier on Kandahar Air Field (KAF) is getting better with each passing day. AAFES is working to supply the troops here with many services that are highly demanded.

The AAFES Concession Mall will be opening November 28th, 2003. This mall will have over six different shops and will provide most anything a person might need.

With winter already here, the sporting goods store will have the answer to all your cold weather needs. The sporting good store will carry North Face jack-

ets, sports gear, running shoes, boots, sleeping bags and many other items. Many of these items will be good gift ideas for the up coming holidays.

Christmas is only a month away and the jewelry shop will have just what you are looking for. The perfect gold or silver necklace for your significant other is only a credit card swipe away.

For the females that like to look good no matter where they are, the beauty shop offers perms, hair coloring, manicures, and pedicures. To release the stress of war or just a hard day at the gym, the massage parlor will take your worries away with massages that range from shiatsu and sports, to deep tissue message.

The concession mall will also have a P/X gift shop and an alterations

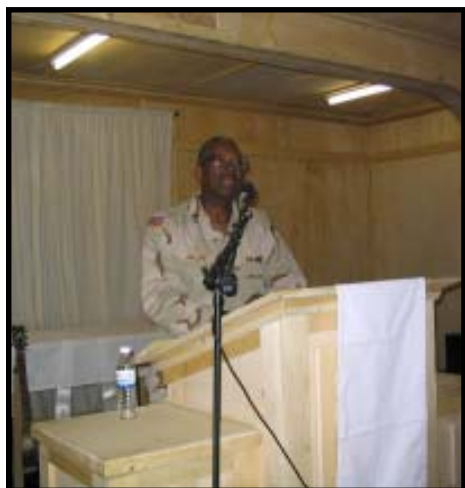


A local worker mixes concrete for the outer structure of the mall

shop which will offer embroidering and pressing. The mornings seem to come too early here; a nice hot coco at the coffee shop will wake you up for a long day of soldiering.

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Army Chaplains; An Integral Part of the War Machine



Chaplain Sylvester Ballard preaches a sermon at KAF's Freedom Chapel

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Dave S. Thompson
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Kandahar, Afghanistan --

Tucked in among the sea of tents and Hesco barriers that dominate Kandahar Air Field's tent city, Freedom Chapel stands out like the proverbial sore thumb. Recently built by a team of Army Engineers, the impressive wooden structure serves as a beacon of hope and peace to all who enter within. It's Sunday morning, and the sound of soldiers of almost every denomination can be heard singing hymns above the rumble of the never ending operations.

"It is my belief that this chapel hosts the largest Christian congregation in the history of Afghanistan," said Captain John Stertzbach, a chaplain from Williston, VT with the 3-6th Field Artillery Battalion, out of Ft. Drum, New York. Chaplain Stertzbach is one of five Army Chaplains assigned to give spiritual guidance and council to over 5,000 soldiers on KAF and eleven outlying firebases in southern Afghanistan.

Chaplains are especially busy during deployments, due to the inherent problems associated with soldiers being away from home and loved ones. Add to that the mental stress of armed conflict, and the need for their unique services are

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From the Top

Explosion Rocks Afghan Capital

KABUL, Afghanistan — A powerful rocket exploded near one of Kabul's few upscale hotels on Saturday night, knocking some guests from their restaurant chairs and shattering windows across the lobby and in many bedrooms. No injuries were reported.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the attack has raised concerns about security in **Kabul**, where rocket and mortar attacks have been fairly rare since the fall of the Taliban regime two years ago.

Security is of concern ahead of next month's *loya jirga*, or grand council, where the new constitution is to be ratified. Some 500 delegates are to take part in the meeting, which is to be held near the hotel and is considered a key step in Afghanistan's recovery from a quarter-century of war.

Police and soldiers from the 5,000-strong NATO-led peace force rushed to the **Intercontinental Hotel** after the blast, and guarded its front door, as some guests quickly checked out in fear of another attack.

The explosion sent glass raining into the lobby and many guestrooms. The hotel is often used by foreign businessmen and journalists.

"A rocket crater has been identified," said Squadron Leader Paul Rice, a spokesman for the peacekeepers, called the International Security Assistance Force.

Maj. Kevin Arata, another spokesman for the peacekeepers, said the blast caused "some minor structural damage, but no injuries."

Taliban insurgents have launched an increasingly bold campaign throughout the country in recent months, often targeting relief agencies and coalition forces in southern and eastern Afghanistan. But attacks in the capital are relatively rare.

Saturday's attack came six days after a French refugee worker, Bettina Goislard, was gunned down south of Kabul, becoming the first international U.N. worker killed in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban.

"Suddenly the lights went out, the explosion hit and the building shook," he told The Associated Press. "All the glass in the lobby shattered, but no one has been injured."

He said a 90-foot wall of glass windows rained into the lobby, and another hotel official, Albert Bester, said that 60 percent of the windows on the side of the hotel nearest the blast had been blown out.

"The curtains stopped the flying glass from injuring us," he said. "The room filled with smoke and some of the lights went out."

Warren Young, a security officer at the bank who also was staying at the hotel, said some guests were knocked from their chairs at the restaurant and others hit the floor.

"We believe that we can now expect Kabul to become dangerous," said Young. "The *loya jirga*, which will be held nearby, will make this the biggest show in Afghanistan."

But according to Rice, the 5,000-strong



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peacekeeping force had no plans to boost security in the capital. "We are already at a very high level of security," he said. "I don't think upping the security status would gain us anything."

The last major incident in Kabul occurred in June, when four German peacekeepers were killed and 29 wounded in a suicide attack on their bus.

Two Canadian peacekeepers also were killed in a land mine explosion on the outskirts of Kabul in October, but it was unclear if they were victims of a deliberate attack.

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increased ten-fold.

"We are problem solving specialists," says Stertzbach. "My primary mission is to nurture the spiritual needs of my soldiers and to assist them in getting through whatever problems they are facing. Anytime you're in a combat zone morale will vary. I just want them to know that I'm here for them and they can come to me for anything."

Stertzbach considers himself "one of the guys." At the tender age of twenty seven, he is one of the youngest chaplains in the Armed Forces. With a youthful appearance and the unassuming manner of 'the boy next door', his soft spoken approach is well received by the soldiers he serves. He stresses the benefits of having faith in God and maintaining a positive attitude; the two, he's convinced, go hand in hand.

Major Sylvester Ballard from Pasadena, TX, is the Base Operations Chaplain and leads the gospel service here. He is an Army Reservist augmented with the 213th Area Support Group. Since arriving at KAF in September, he has focused on implementing programs to assist soldiers in the theater.

"Regardless of your beliefs and your faith, we have programs that relate to just about everyone," stated Ballard. He started a marriage class that helps married soldiers cope with the challenges of being away from their spouses. By applying his wealth of experience, Chaplain Ballard imparts creative methods of keeping romantic feelings intact while being separated. "Being apart is not an easy thing for married people to go through," he said. "[However,] there are ways to let your husband or wife know you are thinking about them and you love them." He also stated that there is a class for single soldiers that focus on dating and how to choose a mate wisely.

A husky 6 feet 5 inches tall,



Soldiers strut their talent at Freedom Chapel.

Chaplain Ballard is an imposing figure. But, his constant smile and warm nature makes him an endearing gentle giant with an approachable disposition. He is beloved by the residents of KAF, and can often be seen walking around base with his unmistakable lumbering gait and infectious grin, talking to whomever he meets along the way. He counsels soldiers on a myriad of issues and says that his approach is very simple:

"Every soldier's circumstance is different [but] I always tell them they are important to God, to their family, and to the Army. I advise them to confess their faults and make a commitment to stop damaging behavior. I encourage them to get involved with the various programs and positive challenges available to them."

There is usually a chaplain assigned to the "front line units" occupying the dangerous firebases throughout the region where casualties are most likely to occur. One of the most difficult challenges for chaplains is counseling soldiers that have lost one of their own in combat.

"I tell my soldiers how proud I am of them and give them words of encouragement," says Stertzbach. "I help them to refocus on why they are here and how they make a positive difference in this war."

Chaplain Ballard emphasized that he and the other chaplains are here to serve the soldier, and that it is okay to ask for help. "It's not being less than a man or woman to ask for help," he said. "You would call the fire department when you smell smoke instead of waiting 'till your house is up in flames, wouldn't you? It's the same with problems. Seek help before the situation gets out of hand."

As the soldiers file out of Freedom Chapel with a look of serenity on their faces, Chaplain Ballard is at the doorway shaking hands and wishing them well as they depart. For him, Stertzbach, and the rest of the chaplains, their reward is knowing they are serving the soldiers while they serve God. And that, they say, is a win-win situation.

Author's note: A listing of Chaplain Services is posted at the Powerhouse Ministry Building-Phone # 318-841-1023

Mall from pg. 1



A local worker places the last layer of concrete on the outer structure of the mall

The food on KAF is great thanks to our fine food service specialists, but a change of pace is always good. Nathan's Hot Dog Stand, an American company from East Coney Island, NY, will provide a perfect meal after a long mission at Shkin.

The mall will be staffed with civilians from Kyrgyzstan, and merchandise, mostly from Central Asia, will keep costs down for the servicemembers that serve so hard for a country so far away.

"When you shop in an AAFES facility and take advantage of an AAFES service, a portion of the money you spend is going to pay for MWR facilities, gym, pools, and child care services. So when you shop on base you are paying it back to yourself," said Daniel Wise, Services Business Manager with AAFES.

Operation enduring Freedom is causing a lot of servicemember to be away from the finer things in life. With all the hard work put out here, AAFES is trying to make life for the troops a little easier.



WORLD NEWS

First U.S. warship arrives in Vietnam since war ended



The USS Vandegrift's four-day port call comes as the United States and Vietnam strengthen diplomatic and economic ties. American commanders attended a ceremony honoring Vietnamese Communist leader Ho Chi Minh, the namesake of this city once known as Saigon.

"I think one of the messages here today is that the ... U.S. and Vietnam are showing the world that former foes can become friends," U.S. Ambassador Raymond Burghardt said.

The United States and Vietnamese militaries have been moving closer together on such areas as counterterrorism, Burghardt said. The United States is not looking to re-establish a permanent military presence in Vietnam but wants to have access to friendly nations' ports, he said.

The frigate, escorted by a Vietnamese patrol boat, made its way up the Saigon River with the red Vietnamese flag flying along with the Stars and Stripes. A chain of white-uniformed sailors stood along the ship's railings, some holding video cameras and binoculars.

The Americans, led by Cmdr. Richard Rogers, disembarked down a red-carpeted walkway and were greeted by a Vietnamese delegation headed by Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Nguyen Duc Hung.

"The river transit today was fantastic," Rogers said. "My crew is very excited to be here."

The four-day port call follows a

landmark meeting last week by Vietnamese Defense Minister Pham Van Tra and Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld — the first time a senior Vietnamese military official has visited Washington.

Bilateral ties have been steadily expanding since diplomatic relations were established in 1995, and trade has boomed to more than \$3 billion annually.

However, the two countries have been more reluctant to engage in military-to-military talks. The only progress was made concerning the joint search for Americans listed as missing in action during the war.

The frigate's arrival was symbolic of both nations' efforts to move into a new era of cooperation.

"I think this is a very good sign to promote and develop bilateral relations between Vietnam and the U.S., particularly between the two navies," said navy Lt. Col. Nguyen Quang Bieu, who was among the welcoming delegation on the dock.

Many Vietnamese say the port call is welcome, demonstrating that old wounds have finally healed following the conflict that killed 3 million Vietnamese and 58,000 Americans.

"Since Vietnam is now at peace, it's normal for an American Navy ship to be in Vietnam," said Dang Van Hai, 49, a former South Vietnamese soldier now driving a motorbike taxi.

"I've seen many American veterans who came back. Most of (today's sailors) were not involved in the war and they're visiting many countries and Vietnam is one of their destinations, so I think it's good for them to come back here."

The frigate, part of the U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet, came from Yokosuka, Japan. The 453-foot long, 4,100-ton ship carries about 200 crew members.

American soldiers once were a constant presence on Saigon's streets during the height of the war, but U.S. forces pulled out in 1973 after the Paris Peace Agreement was reached. Two years later, Saigon, the capital of U.S.-backed South Vietnam, fell to Communist forces. It was renamed Ho Chi

Minh City.

On Wednesday, U.S. sailors were permitted to go ashore until midnight, after which they were required to either return to the ship or go to hotels in town.

"I think they will behave themselves," said John Smallman, special agent for U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

At the same time, "we don't want them to be so careful that nobody has any fun."



American Troops Seek Ex-Saddam Deputy

By **ROBERT H. REID**
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.S. forces killed six alleged insurgents in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit as they searched Monday for a former Saddam deputy believed to be orchestrating attacks on Americans.

Meanwhile, an Italian member of the U.S.-led coalition resigned, accusing the Bush administration of inefficiency and failing to understand Iraq.

Before quitting, Marco Calamai, a special counselor of the Coalition Provisional Authority in the southern province of Dhi Qar, criticized L. Paul Bremer's administration for its handling of Iraq. The charges come as Russia and France

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objected to the U.S. timetable for handing over power to the Iraqis by July 1.

Rising casualties added new urgency to the task. Three American soldiers died Monday in separate attacks, one in an ambush on a patrol, the other by a roadside bomb and a third was killed from non-hostile gunfire.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said the U.S.-led coalition attacked dozens of suspected guerrilla hideouts as it intensified a search for Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, No. 6 on the most-wanted list of 55 Iraqis and former vice chairman of Saddam's Revolutionary Command Council.

In addition to the killing of the six suspected guerrillas, Kimmitt said coalition



forces had captured 99 suspected insurgents, including a former general in Saddam's elite Republican Guard, during 1,729 patrols and 25 raids conducted over the past 24 hours.

For the second time in as many days, American troops fired a satellite-guided missile with a 500-pound warhead, this one at a suspected insurgent sanctuary 10 miles south of Tikrit, Saddam's hometown.

U.S. troops continued attacking suspected insurgent positions late Monday with mortar and tank fire, military officials said. Sporadic explosions could be heard reverberating across Tikrit overnight but there were no immediate reports of casualties in the U.S. attacks.

"Clearly, we're sending the message that we do have the ability to run

operations across a wide area," said Lt. Col. William MacDonald of the 4th Infantry Division. "We have overwhelming combat power that we will utilize in order to go after groups and individuals who have been conducting anti-coalition activities."

In Rome, the Italian Foreign Ministry confirmed Monday that Calamai had resigned but gave no reason.

The government of Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi was a strong supporter of the United States during the war and deployed a 2,700-strong peacekeeping force to help rebuild the country. But in an interview with the leftist daily L'Unita, Calamai complained that the British and Americans had marginalized the Italians. "They don't consult us, they don't involve us."

Calamai said only an interim authority headed by the United Nations could turn things around.

Calamai told the Italian reporters in Nasiriyah on Sunday that the failure of the coalition to understand Iraqi society had created "delusion, social discontent and anger" among Iraqis and allowed terrorism to "easily take root." He cited last week's truck bombing at an Italian paramilitary garrison in the city, which killed 19 Italians and 14 others.

Calamai said about \$400,000 a month was supposed to be made available for projects in Dhi Qar province alone but "because of the muddled organization of (the coalition), only a fraction has been spent."

"The provisional authority simply doesn't work," Calamai told the newspapers. He said only a U.N. administration could turn the tide.

There was no immediate comment from Bremer's staff.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher, asked about Calamai's resignation, said the coalition authority has made "excellent progress" in several areas, including "the physical reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration of services to

Iraqi people, the beginnings of political authority among the Iraqi ministers and now an accelerated path to political authority."

In Washington, President Bush met with a small group of Iraqi women on Monday and promised the United States would not pull out of Iraq when a provisional government is established.

"I assured these five women that America wasn't leaving," Bush said. "When they hear me say we're staying, that means we're staying."

Calamai's criticism is similar to that leveled by Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Cordesman, who went to Iraq at the invitation of the U.S. government, said coalition authority staffers believe their headquarters is an overcentralized bureaucracy that is unrealistic about developments in Iraq. He said too many coalition authority workers are talking to Americans rather than working with Iraqis.

Such criticism raises questions about the coalition's ability to oversee the transfer of power. Although primary responsibility rests with the Iraqis, several Iraqi politicians have said privately that the effort cannot succeed without strong U.S. direction.

Under the plan, announced Saturday by the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, members of a national assembly will be chosen in a series of provincial caucuses. The assembly will select a provisional government to oversee the country until a new constitution is drafted and elections are held in 2005.

The coalition authority will oversee the drafting of a "basic law" that will serve as an interim constitution until elected representatives can draw up a permanent one.

The United States has put to

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NEWS cont.

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gether main guidelines for the interim constitution, including guarantees of freedom of speech, religion, equal rights and judicial independence.

Washington had insisted on withholding power until the Iraqis had ratified a new constitution and elected a democratic government. However, differences over how to choose delegates to write the constitution threatened political stalemate at a time of growing insurgency and rising casualties among the 130,000 U.S. troops here.

After talks with Bremer at the White House last week, Bush agreed to an accelerated timetable.

Although Iraqi politicians applauded the decision, the new timetable has not satisfied France and Russia, two the sharpest critics of the Iraq war. French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin called for transferring power by the end of December.



In Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry said the plan could fail to win support within Iraq and leaves little room for input from the United Nations.

"This approach is fraught with the risk that the given agreement will not attain the necessary legitimacy internally, as well as from the point of view of international law," ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said.

In an audio tape broadcast Sunday by Al-Arabiya television, a speaker purported to be Saddam criticized Iraqis who cooperate with coalition forces, calling them "stray dogs" who lack even the "minimum political weight" to "walk in the streets of Baghdad or any other Iraqi city."

The CIA said Monday it could not authenticate the tape because of its poor quality.



U.S. Syphilis Rate Up for Second Year

By DANIEL YEE

Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The nation's syphilis rate has climbed for the second year in a row, mostly because of an increase in cases among gay and bisexual men, the government said Thursday.

Between 2001 and 2002, the syphilis rate rose 9.1 percent from 2.2 cases per 100,000 people to 2.4 cases, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. The rate had dropped every year between 1990 and 2000 before reversing course.

The actual increase in cases was small - 759 more people, for a total of 6,862 new cases - but the rise among gay and bisexual men has caused concern that the public health safeguards and safe-sex practices adopted over the last two decades during the AIDS epidemic continue to crumble.

"The vast majority of the United States is not seeing any syphilis at all," said Dr. John Douglas, director of the CDC's division of sexually transmitted diseases. "We're seeing syphilis rise primarily in groups of gay and bisexual men."

Syphilis cases in the West soared 64.3 percent (1.4 cases per 100,000 to 2.3) between 2001 and 2002 and climbed 54.5 percent in the Northeast (1.1 cases per 100,000 to 1.7 per 100,000), a rise caused in part by outbreaks in these regions' major cities - San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Miami.

But the CDC also reported that prevention efforts appeared to be working in the South, which for the first time since 1984, no longer accounts for half of the country's syphilis cases. Also, women and non-Hispanic blacks saw a decline for the 12th consecutive year.

In the past two years, the government has repeatedly warned that gays and bisexuals may be letting down their guard against sexually transmitted diseases. About 40 percent of the new cases are from these groups, the CDC said.

SPORTS

Southern Miss Upsets No. 10 TCU 40-28



By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP Sports Writer

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) — TCU in the BCS? Southern Mississippi put an end to any debate by fighting off a frantic comeback attempt by the Horned Frogs.

Dustin Almond threw for 227 yards and three touchdowns and the Golden Eagles capitalized on four turnovers to hand the 10th-ranked Horned Frogs their first loss of the season, 40-28 on Thursday night.

Southern Mississippi (8-3, 7-0) clinched at least a share of the Conference USA title and can win it outright with a victory over East Carolina.

TCU (10-1, 7-1) trailed by 31-6 early in the fourth quarter before scoring three touchdowns in a span of 4:30 with the aid of two straight recovered onside kicks.

Brandon Hassell led the comeback attempt with his passing and running.

He swept around right end for a 1-yard TD with 6:55 left and then threw for the 2-point conversion to cut the lead to 31-28.

Hassell finished 18-for-31 for 260 yards

with two interceptions.

Southern Miss kicked a field goal to make it 34-28, then put the game away by forcing TCU's final turnover of the game.

Greg Brooks got free on a corner blitz and knocked the ball from Hassell. Rod Davis recovered inside the TCU 20 with less than three minutes left and moments later Anthony Harris bulled into the end zone from 2 yards out to make it 40-28 with 1:30 left.

TCU was eighth in the Bowl Championship Series standings this week and needed to stay unbeaten to have any shot of becoming the first school from a non-BCS league to receive an invite to one of the four high-dollar major bowls.

Now, the best the Horned Frogs can hope for is a piece of the league title and a spot in one of five bowls with C-USA ties.

That's a difference of about \$13 million.

Southern Miss, which has won five straight games, can earn a bid to the Liberty Bowl by beating one-win East Carolina next week.

The win was the Golden Eagles' first ever against a ranked opponent at home, and the fans celebrated by taking down a goal post.

Almond, who has thrown 12 TD passes since regaining the starting job five games ago, was 14-for-23 with an interception.

Southern Miss jumped out to a 24-6 lead with the help of three big plays - one by the offense, one by the defense and one by special teams.

The offense was first up as Almond and DaRon Lawrence took advantage of a fallen TCU defender for a 50-yard touchdown pass that made it 7-3 in the first quarter.

Midway through the second quarter the Golden Eagles' defense struck. Etric Pruitt picked off Hassell's throw deep down the middle and returned it 32 yards to the Horned Frogs 24.

Five plays later, Harris spun out of the pile, just barely keeping his knee off the ground, and dived across the goal line for a 1-yard TD to make it 17-6.

Marvin Young capped the outburst with a 52-yard punt return the TCU's 33.

That set up Almond's 9-yard TD pass through traffic to Anwton Courington.

It marked just the second time this season TCU was down at halftime and by far the biggest deficit the Horned Frogs have faced at any point this season.

Almond's third TD pass - a 21-yarder to Young - made it 31-6 late in the third quarter, but TCU wouldn't let its 12-game winning streak die without a fight.

Kenny Hayter capped two short drives with 1-yard touchdown runs in the fourth quarter for TCU, and Reggie Harrell had seven catches for 108 yards.

World Cup Soccer Returns to Afghanistan

By PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — World Cup soccer returned to Afghanistan on Sunday in a match at the stadium once used by the Taliban regime for public executions.

The team lost - a respectable 2-0 defeat to neighboring Turkmenistan - but that was a side issue. Some 2,500 Afghan fans cheered for their team every time the ball made it over midfield, and there was no violence.

"I am so very proud, for myself and for my nation," said Ali Ahmad, a 19-year-old midfielder on the national team. "Someday, God will help us reach the World Cup final."

The last internationally sanctioned match played on Afghan soil was before the 1979 Soviet invasion plunged the country into nearly a quarter-century of war.

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SPORTS Continued

Soccer from pg.7

The Afghan national team - mostly players from a fledgling Kabul local league - was eliminated from the 2006 World Cup with Sunday's loss. The team also lost 11-0 on Wednesday in Turkmenistan, but complained they were done in by a 40-hour bus ride and poor accommodations provided by the Turkmen.

Fans said they felt immense pride to be hosting a FIFA-sanctioned match, though some were embarrassed by the condition of the stadium, which is pocked by bullets and a bit short on grass. A shell slammed into the field during the civil war that largely destroyed Kabul from 1992-96.

The Taliban regime, which came to power in 1996, initially banned soccer. They later relented, but demanded players wear "proper" clothes - long trousers and sleeves - and stop for prayers during matches. Fans were forbidden to cheer.

The Taliban used Kabul's main stadium for executions, with condemned men and women shot at midfield.

"Today is a happy day," said Mohammed Qasim, a 22-year-old policemen standing guard on the field. "This used to be an execution ground for the old regime. But sport is an ambassador of peace."

Holger Obermann, an expert paid by the German National Olympic Committee to advise the Afghans, said he was impressed by the team's results.

"This is a historic day, not just for soccer, but for all the people of Afghanistan," Obermann said. "Our team played a very good match."

The games were part of what FIFA calls a "pre-preliminary" playoff round, with the 14 worst members of the 45-nation Asian Football Confederation. Victory earned Turkmenistan only the right to a berth in next month's World Cup qualification round draw in Germany, the host of the 2006 tournament.

Oklahoma Finishes Regular Season at No. 1

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Football Writer

Oklahoma finished its regular season where it started: No. 1 in The Associated Press college football poll.

The Sooners (12-0) remained the unanimous pick for the top spot in the rankings following a 56-25 victory over Texas Tech. Oklahoma received all 65 first-place votes in balloting by the panel of sports writers and broadcasters Sunday.

The Sooners have been No. 1 every week since the preseason. With wins against Kansas State in the Big 12 title game on Dec. 6 and in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 4, Oklahoma will join Florida State's 1999 team as the only schools to go wire-to-wire since the advent of the preseason poll in 1950.

Southern California remained second this week, followed by LSU, Michigan and Georgia. The Wolverines moved up a spot after beating then-No. 4 Ohio State 35-21 Saturday. The defending national champion Buckeyes fell to eighth.

Oklahoma received the maximum 1,625 points, beating out USC, which had 1,558.

Texas, Tennessee, Ohio State, Florida State and Miami round out the Top 10.

The USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll had the same top six teams as the AP.

Florida leads off the second 10, followed by Purdue, Iowa, Kansas State, Miami of Ohio, Washington State, Mississippi, Boise State, TCU and Pittsburgh.

No teams dropped out of the poll this week. TCU had the biggest fall, dropping from 10th to 19th following its first loss of the season, 40-28 to Southern Mississippi on Thursday night.

Virginia Tech, Bowling Green, Oklahoma State, West Virginia and Nebraska round out the poll.

The Big 12 and SEC lead all conferences with five teams apiece in the poll, followed by four each for the Big Ten and Big East, and two for the Pac-10 and Mid-American. Florida State is the only ACC team in the poll.



HEADLINERS

Man's Finger Stuck in Pay Phone for Hours

EAST ST. LOUIS, III. (AP) — A man and a pay phone were rushed to a hospital after he got his finger stuck in the coin return slot while trying to retrieve his 50 cents.

Emergency room doctors gave Emanuel Fleming a painkiller Monday and pried his middle finger loose using a wooden device and lubricant, ending the three-hour ordeal.

"The bone in my finger felt like it was going to break. My finger was numb. It was very painful," said Fleming, an elementary school janitor.

Fleming had tried to call his wife, but the line was busy. Two passers-by tried to help. When they failed to free him, Fleming used his other hand to dial 911.

Emergency crews and a representative of the company that owns the phone were sent to the scene. But they were also unable to free Fleming.

The phone was near a busy bus stop.

"People on the bus who know me were laughing at me," Fleming said.

With few options left, ambulance crew members cut the telephone off at the base and took it and Fleming to St. Mary's Hospital.

"I've been in this business more than 30 years and I've seen a lot of weird things, but never anyone trapped in a telephone," said Herb Simmons, manager of the ambulance company.

Ohio'Naked Photographer' Suspect Nabbed

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Police believe they have caught a man known as the "naked photographer," who is accused of sneaking up on women while wearing little more than a baseball cap and photographing their shocked expressions.

Officers arrested a naked man late Wednesday night in an alley behind a supermarket near where a woman reported being confronted. The man was not identified immediately.

The woman said she was getting out of her car at an apartment complex on the city's northwest side when she was approached by a naked man. She said he snapped her picture and ran away without touching her.

It was the 39th incident in which a naked man ambushed women and snapped photos. Police believe he keeps the pictures as souvenirs.

School Sprays Skunk Scent on Pine Trees

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — There's a stinky surprise waiting for thieves who snatch pine trees from the University of Minnesota to use as Christmas trees: Instead of the smell of a freshly-cut tree, they'll get a whiff of roadkill skunk.

The university is spraying balsam fir, Scotch pine and anything that looks like a holiday tree with skunk scent ordered from a West Virginia trapping store.


Grounds superintendent Les Potts said the university lost seven evergreens last year to poachers. Christmas tree thieves have been sawing down trees in the middle of the night for years, but last year they lopped the tops off 18-foot trees that were more than 20 years old. The trees probably are permanently disfigured, Potts said.

The spray, which is being administered on still, rainless days, should cover at least the tops of 400 to 500 trees.

So, why skunk? "Can you think of something worse?" Potts asked. Cold weather masks the smell. But warm, indoor air releases it.

"We'll probably still lose some trees, but I have some satisfaction in knowing that it's not going to work out the way the thief thinks it will," Potts said. He admitted wondering what the campus will smell like when warm weather hits next spring.

NFL WEEK 11 SCORES

Sunday, November 23, 2003											
Final	1	2	3	4	T	Final	1	2	3	4	T
Washington (4-7-0)	6	14	3	0	23	San Francisco (5-6-0)	0	3	7	0	10
Miami (7-4-0) «	7	3	0	14	24	Green Bay (6-5-0) «	7	10	0	3	20
Final	1	2	3	4	T	Final	1	2	3	4	T
Carolina (8-3-0)	3	7	7	3	20	Pittsburgh (4-7-0) «	0	10	0	3	13
Dallas (8-3-0) «	10	0	14	0	24	Cleveland (4-7-0)	3	3	0	0	6
Final	1	2	3	4	T	Final OT	1	2	3	4	OT T
Indianapolis (9-2-0) «	0	3	0	14	17	Seattle (7-4-0)	0	17	17	7	0 41
Buffalo (4-7-0)	0	7	0	7	14	Baltimore (6-5-0) «	0	3	21	17	3 44
Final	1	2	3	4	T	Final	1	2	3	4	T
New Orleans (5-6-0)	0	7	7	6	20	Jacksonville (2-9-0)	0	3	0	7	10
Philadelphia (8-3-0) «	10	10	3	10	33	NY Jets (4-7-0) «	3	0	0	10	13
Final	1	2	3	4	T	Final OT	1	2	3	4	OT T
Detroit (3-8-0)	0	0	7	7	14	New England (9-2-0) «	0	10	0	10	3 23
Minnesota (7-4-0) «	7	0	0	17	24	Houston (4-7-0)	3	0	7	10	0 20
Final	1	2	3	4	T	Final OT	1	2	3	4	OT T
Chicago (4-7-0) «	3	6	0	10	19	St. Louis (8-3-0) «	14	3	7	3	3 30
Denver (6-5-0)	7	0	3	0	10	Arizona (3-8-0)	0	10	7	10	0 27
Final	1	2	3	4	T	Final	1	2	3	4	T
Oakland (3-8-0)	0	7	7	10	24	Cincinnati (6-5-0) «	14	14	3	3	34
Kansas City (10-1-0) «	14	7	3	3	27	San Diego (2-9-0)	7	6	0	14	27
Final	1	2	3	4	T						
Tennessee (9-2-0) «	0	14	14	10	38						
Atlanta (2-9-0)	21	0	3	7	31						

<u>Mon</u>				
Nov 24	Sunny	67°/40°	0 %	
<u>Tue</u>				
Nov 25	Sunny	68°/40°	0 %	
<u>Wed</u>				
Nov 26	Sunny	70°/42°	0 %	
<u>Thu</u>				
Nov 27	Sunny	70°/39°	0 %	

Weekly Weather Forecast

<u>Fri</u>				
Nov 28	Partly Cloudy	70°/39°	0 %	
<u>Sat</u>				
Nov 29	Partly Cloudy	70°/41°	0 %	
<u>Sun</u>				
Nov 30	Partly Cloudy	70°/42°	10 %	

Courtesy of the weatherchannel.com

Mountain Warrior Weekly is always accepting comments and suggestions as to how we can improve your newspaper. If you have comments or suggestions, or simply just want to be added to our emailing list, email the staff at
Kandaharpresscenter@yahoo.com